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- SPADICEOUS**. *n. f.* [Diminutive of *spade*.] A little spade.
Others destroy moles with a *spadille*, waiting in the mortu-
ings and evenings for them. *Mertimer's Husbandry.*
- SPADE**. *n. f.* [span, Saxon; *spade*, Islandick and Dutch.]
1. The instrument of digging.
Take the air of the earth new turned up, by digging with
the *spade*, or standing by him that diggeth. *Bacon.*
Many learned men affirm, that some isthmes have been cut
through by the sea, and others cut by the *spade*. *Bacon.*
His next advance was to the soldier's trade,
Where if he did not nimble ply the *spade*,
His furly officer ne'er fail'd to crack
His knotty cudgel on his tougher back. *Dryden.*
Here nature never diff'rence made
Between the sceptre and the *spade*. *Swift.*
2. A deer three years old. *Ainsworth.*
3. A suit of cards.
SPADICEOUS. *adj.* [*spadicus*, Latin.]
Of those five Scalliger beheld, though one was *spadicous*, or
of a light red, and two inclining to red, yet was there not
any of this complexion among them. *Bacon's Vulgar Errors.*
- SPADILLE**. *n. f.* [*spadille*, or *spadille*, French.] The ace of
spades at ombre.
- SPAGYRIC**. *adj.* [*spagyricus*, Lat.] A word coined by Para-
celsus from *spas*, a sealer, Teutonick. *Chymical.*
- SPAGYRIST**. *n. f.* A chymist.
This change is so unexampled, that though among the more
curious *spagyrist* it be very well known, yet many naturalists
cannot easily believe it. *Boyle.*
- SPAKE**. The old preterite of *speak*.
So *spake* the archangel Michael, then paus'd. *Milton.*
- SPALL**. *n. f.* [*spalle*, French.] Shoulder. Out of use.
Their mighty strokes their habernions dismay'd,
And naked made each others manly *spalles*. *Fairfax.*
- SPALT**, or *Spelt*. *n. f.* A white, scaly, shining stone, frequently
used to promote the fusion of metals. *Edley.*
- SPAN**. *n. f.* [span, Saxon; *spanna*, Ital. *span*, Dutch.]
1. The space from the end of the thumb to the end of the little
finger extended.
A foot, the length of it, is a sixth part of the statute; a
span, one eighth; a palm, or hand's breadth, one twenty-fourth;
a thumb's breadth, or inch, one seventy-second; and a fore-
finger's breadth one ninety-sixth. *Helder on Time.*
Will you with counters sum
The vast proportion of his infinite?
And buckle in a waste most fathomless,
With *spans* and inches so diminutive
As fears and reasons? *Shakespeare. Troilus and Cressida.*
Sum how brief the life of man
Runs his erring pilgrimage,
That the stretching of a *span*
Buckles in his sum of age. *Shakespeare.*
When I removed the one, although but at the distance of
a *span*, the other would stand like Hercules's pillar. *Brown.*
2. Any short duration.
You have scarce time
To steal from spiritual leisure a brief *span*,
To keep your earthly audit. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*
The virgin's part, the mother and the wife,
So well she acted in this *span* of life. *Waller.*
Then conscience, unrestrain'd by fears, began
To stretch her limits, and extend the *span*. *Dryden.*
Life's hint a *span*, I'll every inch enjoy. *Farquhar.*
- TO SPAN**. *v. a.*
1. To measure by the hand extended.
Oft on the well-known spot I fix my eyes,
And *span* the distance that between us lies. *Tickell.*
2. To measure.
My surveyor is false; the o'er great cardinal
Hath thew'd him gold; my life is *spann'd* already. *Shakespeare.*
This foul doth *span* the world, and hang content
From either pole unto the centre;
Where in each room of the well-furnish'd tent
He lies warm, and without adventure. *Herbert.*
Harry, whose tuneful and well-measur'd song
First taught our English musick how to *span*
Words with just note and accent, not to scan
With Midas' ears, counting short and long. *Milton.*
- SPAN**. The preterite of *spin*. See *SPIN*.
Together furiously they ran,
That to the ground came horse and man;
The blood out of their helmets *span*,
So sharp were their encounters. *Dryden's Nymphid.*
- SPAN-COUNTER**. *n. f.* [from *span*, counter and *farthing*.] A
spanfarthing. *n. f.* play at which money is thrown within a
span or mark.
Tell the king, that for his father's sake, Henry V. in whose
time boys went to *spancounter* for French crowns, I am content
he shall reign. *Shakespeare's Henry VI.*
Boys shall not play
At *spancounter* or blowpoint, but shall pay
Toll to some courtier. *Donne.*

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- His chief solace is to steal down, and play at *spanfarthing*
with the page. *Swift.*
- SPANG**. *n. f.* [*spange*, Dutch.] This word seems to have sig-
nified a cluster of shining bodies.
The colours that shew best by candlelight are white, carna-
tion, and a kind of sea-water green; and ouches of *spang*,
as they are of no great cost, so they are of most glory. *Bacon.*
- SPANGLE**. *n. f.* [*spange*, German, a buckle, a locket; whence
cher spangen, ear-ring.]
1. A small plate or bulb of shining metal.
2. Any thing sparkling and shining.
As hoary frost with *spangles* doth attire
The mossy branches of an oak half dead. *Fairy Queen.*
Thus in a starry night fond children cry
For the rich *spangles* that adorn the sky. *Waller.*
The twinkling *spangles*, the ornaments of the upper world,
lose their beauty and magnificence: vulgar spectators see them
but as a confused huddle of petty illuminants. *Gavil.*
That now the dew with *spangles* deck'd the ground,
A sweeter spot of earth was never found. *Dryden.*
- TO SPANGLE**. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To besprinkle with
spangles or shining bodies.
They never meet in grove or green,
By fountain clear, or *spangled* starlight sheen. *Shakespeare.*
What stars do *spangle* heaven with such beauty,
As those two eyes become that heavenly face. *Shakespeare.*
Unpin that *spangled* breastplate which you wear,
That th' eyes of busy fools may be slept there. *Donne.*
Four faces each
Had, like a double Janus, all their shape
Spangled with eyes, more numerous than those
Of Argus. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
Then appear'd
Spangling the hemisphere, then first adorn'd
With the bright luminaries, that set and rose. *Milton.*
The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue etherial sky,
And *spangl'd* heav'n's, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim. *Aldisford's Spectator.*
- SPANIEL**. *n. f.* [*spanielus*, Latin; *spagneu*, French.]
1. A dog used for sports in the field, remarkable for sagacity and
obedience.
Divers days I followed his steps 'till I found him, having
newly met with an excellent *spaniel* belonging to his dead
companion. *Sidley.*
There are arts to reclaim the wildest men, as there are to
make *spaniels* fetch and carry: chide 'em often, and feed 'em
seldom. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*
2. A low, mean, sneaking fellow; a courtier; a dedicator; a
pensioner; a dependant; a placeman.
I mean sweet words,
Low crooked courtiesies, and base *spaniel* fawning. *Shakespeare.*
I am your *spaniel*; and, Demetrius,
The more you beat me I will fawn on you. *Shakespeare.*
- TO SPANIEL**. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To fawn on; to play
the *spaniel*.
The hearts
That *spaniel'd* me at heels, to whom I gave
Their wishes, do difcandy and melt their sweets
On blossoming Cæsar. *Shakespeare.*
- SPANISH BROOM**. *n. f.* [*genista juncea*, Lat.] A plant so called,
as being a native of Spain: it hath plant branches, leaves placed
alternately, flowers of the pea-bloom kind, succeeded by
smooth pods, containing several kidney-shaped seeds in each.
Miller.
- SPANISH NUT**. *n. f.* [*sisyrinchium*, Latin.] A plant.
It hath a flower resembling the iris, from whence it differs
in having a double root, one lying over another, after the
same manner as those of crocus and gladiolus. *Miller.*
- SPANKER**. *n. f.* A small coin.
Your cure too costs you but a *spanker*. *Donham.*
- SPANNER**. *n. f.* The lock of a fusce or carbine.
My prince's court is now full of nothing but buff-coats,
spanners, and musket-rests. *Flavel.*
- SPAR**. *n. f.*
1. Marcasite.
Spar is a mixed body, consisting of crystal incorporated
sometimes with *læ limæ*, and sometimes with other mineral
stony, earthy, or metallic matter. *Woodward.*
Some stones, as *spar* of lead, dissolved in proper men-
struums, become salts. *Newton's Opt.*
2. [*Sparre*, Dutch.] A small beam; the bar of a gate.
TO SPAR. *v. n.* To fight with plessive strokes.
TO SPARE. *v. a.* [span, Saxon; *sperran*, German.] To
shut; to close; to bar.
And if he chance come when I am abroad,
Sparre the yate fast for fear of fraud;
Ne for all his woe, nor for his best,
Open the door at his request. *Shakespeare's Post-rail.*
Six gates i' th' city with massy staples,
And correspondent and fulfilling bolts,
Spar up the fons of Troy. *Shakespeare.*
Yet

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- Yet for the yode thereat half agast,
And Kiddie the door *sparr'd* after her fast. *Shakespeare.*
- SPARRABLE**. *n. f.* [span, Saxon; to fatten.] Small nails.
SPARRAP. *n. f.* [In pharmacy.] A cereal.
With application of the common *sparap* for issues, this
ulcer was by a fontanel kept open. *Wise's Ser. ex.*
- TO SPARE**. *v. a.* [span, Saxon; *sparen*, Dutch; *espargere*,
French.]
1. To use frugally; not to waste; not to consume.
Thou thy father's thunder didst not *sparre*. *Milton.*
2. To have unemployed; to save from any particular use.
All the time he could *sparre* from the necessary cares of his
weighty charge he bestowed on prayer, and fasting of God:
he oftentimes spent the night alone in church-praying, his
head-piece, gorget, and gauntlets lying by him. *R. oles.*
He had no bread to *sparre*. *W. Hervey.*
Only the foolish virgins entertained this foolish conceit, that
there might be an overplus of grace sufficient to supply their
want; but the wise knew not of any that they had *to spare*,
but supposed all that they had little enough. *T. Wilson.*
Let a pamphlet come in a proper measure, and every one
who can *sparre* a shilling shall be a subscriber. *Swift.*
3. To do without; to lose willingly.
I could have better *sparr'd* a better man. *Shakespeare. Hen. IV.*
For his mind, I do not care;
That's a toy that I could *sparre*;
Let his title be but great,
His clothes rich, and hand fit neat. *Den. Johnson.*
Sense of pleasure we may well
Spare out of life perhaps, and not repine;
But pain is perfect misery. *Milton.*
Now the might *sparre* the ocean, and oppose
Your conduct to the fierceness of her fons. *Waller.*
The fair blessing we vouchsafe to lend;
Nor can we *sparre* you long, tho' often we may lend. *Dryden.*
4. To omit; to forbear.
We might have *sparr'd* our coming. *Milton.*
Be p's's'd your politics to *sparre*;
I'm old enough, and can myself take care. *Dryden.*
5. To use tenderly; to forbear; to treat with pity; not to
afflict; not to destroy; to use with mercy.
Spare us, good Lord. *Common Prayer.*
Who will set the discipline of wisdom over mine heart,
That they *sparre* me not for my ignorances? *Eccles. xxiii. 2.*
Doth not each look a flash of lightning feel?
Which *sparre* the body's flesh, but melts the steel. *Clavel.*
Dim sadness did not *sparre*
Celestial viages. *Milton.*
Less pleasure take brave minds in battles won
Than in restoring such as are undone;
Tigers have courage, and the rugged bear;
But man alone can whom he conquers *sparre*. *Waller.*
Spare me one hour! *O spare* me but a moment. *Trane.*
6. To grant; to allow; to indulge.
Set me in the remotest place,
That Neptune's frozen arms embrace;
Where angry Jove did never *sparre*
One breath of kind and temperate air. *Reverence.*
7. To forbear to inflict or impose.
Spare my remembrance; 'twas a guilty day;
And still the blush hangs here. *Dryden. All for Love.*
O spare this great, this good, this aged king,
And *sparre* your foul the crime! *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*
Spare my light the pain
Of seeing what a world of tears it costs you. *Dryden.*
- TO SPARE**. *v. n.*
1. To live frugally; to be parsimonious; to be not liberal.
H' has wherewithal: in him
Sparing would show a worse sin than ill doctrine. *Shakespeare.*
Those wants, which they rather feared than felt, would
well enough be overcome by *sparing* and patience. *Kneller.*
Our labours late and early every morning,
Midst Winter frosts, then clad and red with *sparing*, *Oliver.*
Rise to our toils.
God has not been so *sparing* to men to make them barely
two-legged creatures, and left it to Aristotle to make them
rational. *Locke.*
When they discover the passionate desire of fame in the am-
bitious man, they become *sparing* and saving in their com-
mendations; they envy him the satisfaction of an applause. *Adams.*
New a reservoir to keep and *sparre*,
The next a fountain spouting through his heir. *Pope.*
No statue in his favour lays
How free or fragal I shall pass my days;
Who at some times spend, at others *sparre*,
Divided between selfishness and care. *Pope.*
2. To forbear to be scrupulous.
His soldiers *sparr'd* not to say that they should be unkindly
dealt with, if they were defrauded of the spoil. *Kneller.*
In these relations, although he be more *sparing*, his prede-
cessors were very niggard. *Bacon's Vulgar Errors.*
To pluck and eat my fill I *sparr'd* not. *Auden.*

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3. To use mercy; to forgive; to be tender.
Their king, out of a princely feeling, was *sparing* and com-
passionate towards his subjects. *Bacon.*
- SPARE**. *adj.*
1. Scanty; not abundant; parsimonious.
He was *sparre*, but discreet of *sparre*; better conceiving than
delivering; equally stout and kind. *Shakespeare's Sur. of Cornwall.*
Men ought to beware, that they use not exercise and a *sparre*
diet both. *Lucan's Natura. History.*
Join with thee calm peace and quiet;
Spare a fast, that oft with gods doth diet. *Milton.*
The masts of the world were *spar'd* up with *sparre* diet;
and the young gentlemen of Rome felt no want of strength,
because they ate but once a day. *Locke.*
2. Superfluous; unnecessary.
If that *sparre* cloths he had to give,
His own coat he would give, and at distribute glad. *F. &.*
As any of our *sparre* waxen well, he might be removed; for
which purpose there were set forth *sparre* chambers. *Bacon.*
Learning seems more adapted to the female world than to
the male, because they have more *sparre* time upon their hands,
and lead a more sedentary life. *Auden's Spectator.*
In my *sparre* hours you've had your part;
E'en now my servile hand your sovereign will obeys. *Norr.*
3. Lean; wanting; needy; meagre.
O give me your *sparre* men, and *sparre* me the great ones. *Sh.*
If my name were liable to fear,
I do not know the man I should avoid
So soon as th' *sparre* Callius. *Shakespeare. Julius Cæsar.*
His visage drawn he felt to sharp and *sparre*.
His arms cling to his ribs. *Milton's Parod. Lost.*
- SPARE**. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Parsimony; frugal use; husbandry.
Not in use.
Our victuals failed us, though we had made good *sparre* of
them. *Bacon.*
- SPARRER**. *n. f.* [from *sparre*.] One who avoids expence.
By nature far from parsimonious, and yet a greater *sparer* than
a savor; for though he had such means to accumulate, yet his
forts, garrisons, and his lastings, wherein he was only sumptu-
ous, could not but look his *sparre*. *Watson.*
- SPARRING**. *n. f.* [*sparre* and *sparre*.] Some part cut off from the
ribs; as, a *sparre* of pork.
- SPARGATION**. *n. f.* [*spargo*, Lat.] The act of sprinkling.
- SPARRING**. *adj.* [from *sparre*.]
1. Scarcely; little.
Of this there is with you *sparing* memory or none; but we
have large knowledge thereof. *Bacon.*
2. Scanty; not plentiful.
If much exercise, then use a plentiful diet; and if *sparing*
diet, then little exercise. *Bacon.*
Good art, solitary groves, and *sparing* diet, sufficient to
make you fancy yourself one of the fathers of the desert. *Pope.*
3. Parsimonious; not liberal.
Virgil being so very *sparing* of his words, and leaving so
much to be imagined by the reader, can never be translated as
he ought in any modern tongue. *Dryden.*
Though *sparing* of his grace, to mischief bent,
He seldom does a good with good intent. *Dryden.*
- SPARRINGLY**. *adv.* [from *sparre*.]
1. Not abundantly.
Give us leave freely to render what we have in charge;
Or shall we *sparre* shew you far off?
The dauphin's meaning? *Shakespeare. Henry V.*
The borders whereon you plant fruit-trees should be large,
and set with fine flowers; but thin and *sparing*, lest they de-
ceive the trees. *Bacon's Essays.*
2. Frugally; parsimoniously; not lavishly.
Speech of touch towards others should be *sparing*ly used;
for discourse ought to be as a field, without coming home to
any man. *Bacon's Essays.*
High titles of honour were in the king's minority *sparing*ly
granted, because dignity then waited on desert. *Hayward.*
Commend but *sparing*ly whom thou do'st love;
But less condemn whom thou do'st not approve. *Donham.*
The narrative of a grave sentence, affected by Lucan, is
more *sparing*ly used by Virgil. *Dryden.*
3. With abstinence.
Christians are obliged to taste even the innocent pleasures of
life but *sparre*ly. *Auden's Essay.*
4. Not with great frequency.
Our sacraments, which had been frequented with so much
zeal, were approached more *sparre*ly. *Attorney's Sermon.*
5. Cautiously; tenderly.
- SPARK**. *n. f.* [span, Saxon; *spark*, Dutch.]
1. A small particle of fire, or kindled matter.
If any marvel how a thing, in itself so weak, could import
any great danger, they must consider not so much how small
the *spark* is that kindles up, as how apt things about it are to take
fire. *Locke.*
I am about to weep; but thinking that
We are a queen, my drops of tears I'll turn
To *sparks* of fire. *Shakespeare.*
I was